

value of 2 for moderate staining intensity, a value of 3 for staining intensity equal to a positive control, and a value of 4 for staining intensity greater than the positive control, and wherein for step (e)(iii) the intensity of staining is assigned a value of 4 for staining equal to or greater than a negative control, a value of 3 for staining slightly decreased from the negative control, a value of 2 for staining intensity moderately decreased from the negative control, a value of 1 for staining intensity equal to a positive control, and a value of 0 for staining intensity less than the positive control, and a value of 0 for staining less than the positive control; wherein the products of steps (e)(I), (e)(ii) and (e)(iii) are weighted on a scale from +1 to -4 and wherein the index comprises the sum of the weighted products for nuclear localization of p53, thrombospondin 1 expression and microvascularization, wherein a prognosis of a likelihood of further neoplastic disease is made when said sum is -5 or less, wherein said prognosis is predicted from considering a likelihood of further neoplastic disease which is made when the level of nuclear localization of in the tumor sample is greater than the level of nuclear localization of p53 protein in the non-invasive, non-metastatic tumor sample; the level of thrombospondin 1 expression in the tumor sample is less than the level of thrombospondin 1 expression in the non-invasive, non-metastatic tumor sample; and the extent of microvascularization in the tumor sample is greater than the extent of microvascularization in the non-invasive, non-metastatic tumor sample.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the index has a value of -5, -6, -7 or -8.

13. The method of Claim 11 wherein the cancer is breast cancer.

14. The method of Claim 11 wherein the cancer is prostate cancer.

15. The method of Claim 11 wherein the cancer is melanoma.

25 16. The method of Claim 1, wherein the prognosis of disease course includes a risk for metastasis, recurrence and relapse of neoplastic disease.

17. The method of Claim 1, wherein the prognosis of disease course includes staging malignant disease in a human cancer patient.

18. The method of Claim 11, wherein the prognosis of disease course includes a risk for metastasis, recurrence and relapse of neoplastic disease.

19. The method of Claim 11, wherein the prognosis of disease course includes
5 staging malignant disease in a human cancer patient.

20. The method of Claim 1, wherein the prognostic index is produced by preparing a weighted scale of expression levels of the tumor markers related to progression observed in a representative sample of a particular tumor type, wherein the different values in the weighted scale are related to increased invasiveness or metastatic spread in the representative sample.
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